



5001-1122

PATENTS

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Gerd PLANGE et al.

Confirmation No. Unknown

Serial No. 10/688,969

Group Unknown

Filed October 21, 2003

Examiner Unassigned

MECHANISM FOR DISPLAYING THE MOON PHASES

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In compliance with Rules 1.97 and 1.98, and in fulfillment of the duty of disclosure under Rule 1.56, the cited documents are made of record on the enclosed PTO Form-1449.

As the USPTO has waived the requirement under 37 CFR 1.98(a)(2)(i) for submitting a copy of each cited U.S. patent and patent publication for applications filed after June 30, 2003, copies of the cited U.S. references are not enclosed, as the present application is filed after June 30, 2003. Copies of the cited foreign patent documents and/or non-patent literature are enclosed.

A concise explanation of the relevance of these items is that these references were discovered during any searches our client or their client had made, or that they were considered in the preparation of the application.

JP 14.551/89 and JP 39.276/93 describe a moon indication mechanism allowing to indicate the position and the phase of the moon of one hemisphere by using an upper disc comprising a single window, a moon background disc and a shadow disc arranged between the first two discs. Such a device is specially adapted to indicate the moon position on the horizon, the difference between the appearance of the moon phase in the northern and southern hemisphere not being an object of these documents. As there is no disc comprising two windows allowing indication of the moon phases separately or simultaneously and in a distinct manner for the northern and the southern hemisphere like in the present application, these documents are not pertinent and can be considered to belong to the technical background with regard to the present application.

Like the two documents mentioned above, also the Japanese documents 54.080/93, JP 26.075/92 and JP 46.555/82 belong to CITIZEN TOKEI K.K. and stem from the same group of two inventors. With respect to the moon indicator, these documents once again concern the same mechanism as mentioned above but integrated here in different kinds of watches. Thus, no information disclosing or suggesting the subject of the present invention is contained in these documents. Moreover, translations in English language of the claims of the first two documents mentioned are furnished.

JP 46.555/82 discloses an even more conventional mechanism comprising only a moon disc with one window and a background disc and therefore is not pertinent to the present application.

FR 2.790.564 describes a moon phase indication mechanism comprising a single window in the dial, a moon background disc and a shadow disc arranged between the first discs. Therefore, that document belongs to the technical background.

DE 4.412.702 concerns an electronic watch comprising a moon phase indication and thus is not relevant for the present application.


EP 0.107.177 again discloses a moon indication mechanism allowing to indicate the position and the phase of the moon of one hemisphere by using an upper disc comprising a single window, a moon background disc and a shadow disc arranged between the first two discs, like the Japanese documents JP 14.551/89 and JP 39.276/93 mentioned at the beginning.

Thus, all these documents have to be considered only as technical background, due to the fact that none of them

discloses or suggests a mechanism allowing a distinct indication of the moon phases for the northern and southern hemisphere by using a disc comprising two windows.

Respectfully submitted,

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January 12, 2004

FORM PTO-1449

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICEATTY. DOCKET NO.
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10/688,969**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

(Use several sheets if necessary)

37 CFR 1.98(b)

APPLICANT
Gerd PLANGE et al.FILING DATE
October 21, 2003GROUP
Unknown**U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

EXAMINER INITIAL		PATENT NUMBER	ISSUE DATE	PATENTEE	CLASS	SUB CLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	AA						

FOREIGN PATENT OR PUBLISHED FOREIGN PATENT APPLICATION

		DOCUMENT NO.	PUBL. DATE	COUNTRY OR PATENT OFFICE	CLASS	SUB CLASS	TRANSLATION YES NO
	AI	B2 1-14551	03/89	JP			YES
	AJ	B2 5-39276	06/93	JP			YES
	AK	B2 8-20527	03/96	JP			YES
	AL	B2 5-54080	08/93	JP			YES
	AM	A 60-60580 corres. to 26.075/92	04/85	JP			
	AN	A 4-6555	01/92	JP			
	AO	2 790 564	09/00	FR			
	AP	44 12 702 C1	09/95	DE			
	AQ	0 107 177 A1	05/84	EP			

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Relevant Pages, Place of Publication)

	AT	
	AU	

EXAMINER**DATE CONSIDERED**

**EXAMINER: Initial citation considered. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered.
Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.**